

Minutes of Meeting
Health Services Council
Project Review Committee-I

DATE: 22 June 2010

TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Conference Room C
Department of Administration

ATTENDANCE:

Name	Present	Absent	Excused
Committee-I			
Victoria Almeida, Esq. (Vice Chair)			X
John X. Donahue	X		
John W. Flynn	X		
Wallace Gernt	X		
Theresa Jeremiah			X
Amy Lapierre	X		
Steven Lonardo	X		
Thomas M. Madden, Esq.	X		
Robert Quigley, DC (Chairman)	X		
Robert Ricci		X	
Robert Whiteside		X	

Staff: Valentina Adamova, MBA, Michael K. Dexter, MPA, Joseph G. Miller, Esq.

Public: (Attached)

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Conflict of Interest Forms and Extension for the Minutes Availability

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 PM. The Chair noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. Minutes of the 23 February 2010 and 13 April 2010 Project Review Committee-I meetings were adopted as submitted. A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of seven in favor with none opposed (7-0) that the availability of minutes for this meeting be extended beyond the time frame as provided for under the Open Meetings Act. Those members voting in favor were: Donahue, Flynn, Gernt, Lapierre, Lonardo, Madden, Quigley.

2. General Order of Business

The first item on the agenda was the application of **St. Clare Home** for Certificate of Need to increase the licensed bed capacity from 47 to 60 including the transferring of 4 beds from St. Antoine through renovation and new construction and creating a social model of care.

Harvey Zimmerman, consultant to the Department, presented his report. He noted that St. Clare has a significantly older population than other nursing homes in the state, making home service

alternatives less practical. He noted that there are 153 out of service beds in Rhode Island but very few lie in the South Country region where St. Clare is located. The Committee discussed the issue of out-of-service beds.

Staff read into the record an advisory letter received from Medicaid Director including the following:

- This CON will have a financial impact on Medicaid – approximately \$910,000 per year in additional costs – due to the expansion of nursing home beds and an increase in the costs associated with each bed.
- The Department of Human Services supports St. Clare's efforts to offer independent living apartments, assisted living and adult day care program, as these programs are consistent with the goals of the Global Medicaid Waiver.
- The Department was supporting of the original legislation allowing for the creation and expansion of the green house nursing facilities as an alternative to the traditional model of skilled nursing facilities. The creation of continuum of care a person-centered skilled nursing facility will further the goals outlines by Medicaid through the Global Waiver.

Mr. Gernt questioned whether the advisory letter was in support of the St. Clare CON. Ms. Lapierre clarified that DHS is supportive of assisted living, adult day care and independent living apartments as that is in support of the continuum of aging in place. She noted that DHS is also in support of more home-like environments for those residents who are institutionalized. It is a significant financial cost to Medicaid. Mr. Flynn noted that the Committee has to look at affordability and that the state cannot afford anything.

The applicant reviewed responses to follow-up questions. The Committee questioned the applicant regarding their debt and equity commitment levels for the project based on different fundraising projections. Mr. Flynn noted that the applicant has a waiting list. The applicant stated that they receive calls everyday from potential clients including requests for private rooms. The applicant noted that they are full and cannot provide private rooms. In response to an inquiry by the Committee, the applicant said they are moving the building 5 feet to appease the neighbors and strengthen their application to the zoning board.

A motion was made by Mr. Gernt, seconded by Mr. Flynn and passed by a vote of five in favor, none opposed and one abstention (5-0-1) to recommend that the application be approved subject to the conditions of approval. Those members voting in favor included: Donahue, Flynn, Gernt, Lonardo, Quigley. Ms. Lapierre abstained.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova, MBA
Health Economics Specialist